



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 17, 2003

Contact: Jamie Callahan
866-525-5637

‘Mighty Mac’ relief goes to the Governor *Final version of legislation is approved.*

Lansing, MI – A bright future lies ahead for the Mackinac Bridge and all those who travel it as legislation lowering tolls from the significant May increases and assisting in one-time capital improvements have passed the legislature and will move to Gov. Granholm’s desk.

The legislation, spear-headed by Senator Jason Allen (R-Traverse City) and Representative Scott Shackleton (R-Sault Ste. Marie), will dedicate state funding to the Mackinac Bridge Authority to cover capital improvement costs and offset the toll increase instituted on May 1, 2003.

“I am very excited to see the degree of support the bridge and the bill package received,” said Allen. “It is clear the legislature realizes the importance of the bridge as a historic symbol, as well as the need for the state to take an active role in supporting this critical piece of infrastructure.”

The five bill package, consisting of three House Bills and two Senate Bills, was passed by both chambers and are now awaiting presentation to the Governor. The legislation will help remedy the concern of how to pay for over \$250 million in one-time capital improvement projects that will be needed over the next 20 years.

“Both Representative Shackleton and I have been working closely with members of the legislature and the Mackinac Bridge Authority so that the bridge’s needs will be adequately met for years to come,” said Allen. “I look forward to having the Governor enact this vital legislation for Michigan.”

Since the bridge’s construction in the 1950’s, the state has not directly allocated any funds for repair or maintenance. This legislation is aimed at providing a consistent level of support to the ‘Mighty Mac’.